

# IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

1923

---

## SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT



OTTAWA  
F. A. ACLAND  
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
1924







# CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. Oversea Settlement within the Empire.. . . . .	5
2. Co-operation in Financial Assistance to Imperial Development.. . . . .	5
3. Imperial Preference—	
(1) Tariff Preference.. . . . .	6
(2) Imperial Preference in Public Contracts.. . . . .	8
4. Further Steps for the Improvement of Mutual Trade—	
(A)—Imperial Co-operation in respect of Commercial Intelligence—	
(i.) Commercial Diplomatic and Consular Services.. . . . .	8
(ii.) Commercial Travellers' Samples.. . . . .	9
(iii.) Trade Catalogues.. . . . .	9
(B)—Statistics.. . . . .	10
(C)—Imperial Communications—	
(i.) Shipping—	
(a.) Imperial Shipping Committee.. . . . .	10
(b.) Carriage of Goods by Sea.. . . . .	10
(ii.) Air Navigation.. . . . .	10
(iii.) Cables and Wireless.. . . . .	11
(D)—Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments, including Arbitration Awards.. . . . .	11
(E)—Imperial Co-operation with Reference to Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.. . . . .	12
(F)—Economic Defence.. . . . .	12
(G)—Customs Formalities—	
(i.) Valuation of Goods for Customs Duty Purposes.. . . . .	12
(ii.) International Conference on Customs Formalities.. . . . .	13
(H)—Empire Currency and Exchange.. . . . .	14
(J)—Co-operation for Technical Research and Information.. . . . .	14
(K)—Immunity of State Enterprises.. . . . .	15
5. Imperial Policy with Regard to the Import and Export of Livestock.. . . . .	17
6. Imperial Policy with Regard to Forestry.. . . . .	17
7. Workmen's Compensation.. . . . .	17
8. Imperial Economic Committee.. . . . .	18
Appendix.. . . . .	19







## IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, 1923

---

### SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The full Report of the proceedings of the Imperial Economic Conference will be presented to Parliament as soon as practicable, and will include a record of the discussions partly in the form of verbatim extracts from the speeches and partly in the form of précis, together with copies of documents, such as Memoranda and Reports of Committees of the Conference which are of sufficient importance or general public interest to warrant their publication. In the meantime the Conference have thought it desirable to issue the following Resolutions adopted by them under various headings of their Agenda. The great bulk of these Resolutions, together with the tenour of the discussions leading up to them, have already been published in the Press from time to time during the sitting of the Conference.

### RESOLUTIONS

#### 1. OVERSEA SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE EMPIRE

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

“This Imperial Economic Conference approves the Report of the Committee appointed to consider questions relating to oversea settlement. The Conference endorses the recommendations of the Committee and notes with satisfaction the arrangements as recorded in the Report which have been arrived at, or are in contemplation, with a view to improving the facilities for settlement within the Empire.

“The Conference takes this opportunity of reaffirming its sense of the importance of the policy of oversea settlement to the well-being of the Empire.”

#### 2. CO-OPERATION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPERIAL DEVELOPMENT

It was agreed that the Scheme recommended by the Committee on Co-operation in Financial Assistance to Imperial Development be adopted. The Report of the Committee reads as follows:—

“The Committee on Financial Co-operation recommends for adoption by the Conference the following scheme which was submitted to the Committee by the representatives of His Majesty's Government:—

“The suggestion which the Imperial Government make is that in order to facilitate the anticipation of work which otherwise would not be taken in hand for some years they should give a contribution towards the interest charges on loans raised for capital expenditure of this kind by public utility undertakings (viz., communications, power lighting, water, drainage, irrigation, etc.). These undertakings might be under either public or private control or management.



"The assistance would be in respect of expenditure on orders placed in this country and would be applicable only to schemes approved by the Dominion or Central Government concerned and certified by it to be in anticipation of normal expenditure. Payment would be made to the Dominion or Central Government which would be responsible for payment to the ultimate recipient.

"It is suggested that the maximum grant should be three-quarters of the interest charges for a period of five years.

"In order to qualify for the Imperial contribution a scheme must be accepted by the Imperial Government within the next three years. The approval on behalf of the Imperial Government would be given after consultation with the Treasury, the Colonial or India Office and the Board of Trade.

"It would be understood that priority will be given to schemes involving the earliest placing of orders."

### 3. IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

#### (1) TARIFF PREFERENCE

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

"This Imperial Economic Conference, holding that, especially in present circumstances, all possible means should be taken to develop the resources of the Empire and trade between the Empire countries, desires to reaffirm the Resolution on the subject of Imperial Preference passed by the Imperial War Conference of 1917."

Further, as regards Imperial Preference under the United Kingdom Customs Tariff to Empire goods, His Majesty's Government intimated that they intended to submit to Parliament the following proposals:—

#### *Dried Fruit.*

At present dried figs, raisins and plums (includes apricots) are dutiable at the rate of 10s. 6d. per cwt., if from foreign countries and enjoy if of Empire origin a preference of one-sixth, i.e., of 1s. 9d. per cwt.

It is proposed to admit these goods free of duty from the Empire so that Empire raisins, figs and plums will enjoy a preference of 10s. 6d. per cwt.

#### *Currants.*

At present dried currants are dutiable at the rate of 2s. per cwt. and enjoy a preference of one-sixth, which on the existing duty only amounts to 4d.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to offer free admission to Empire currants and to consider what increase in the duty on foreign currants may be necessary to make the preference effective, such increase to come into force at a future date to be agreed upon.

#### *Other Dried Fruit.*

At present there is no duty on any *other dried fruit*, but whilst continuing to admit such Empire dried fruit free, His Majesty's Government would propose to impose a duty of 10s. 6d. per cwt. on such foreign dried fruit (e.g., apples, pears and peaches) as the Dominion representatives may consider of interest to their trade.



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

*Other Preserved Fruits.*

Preserved fruits other than those mentioned above are not dutiable save in respect of sugar contents, if any. It is proposed in addition to any such duty on the sugar contents to impose an all-round duty of 5s. per cwt. on the principal forms of preserved fruit not at present dutiable, except fruit pulp for jam manufacture, which will remain free of duty. All such fruit will be admitted free from the Empire.

*Sugar.*

At present sugar is dutiable according to a scale dependent on the polarization of the sugar with a basis of 25s. 8d. per cwt. on fully refined sugar.

Empire sugar enjoys a preference of one-sixth or 4s. 3½d. per cwt., being nearly a halfpenny a pound on refined sugar.

It is not possible at present to offer an increase in this preference, but His Majesty's Government are ready to guarantee that if the duty is reduced the preference shall for a period of ten years not fall with it, but be maintained at its present rate of nearly ½d. per pound so long at least as the duty on foreign sugar does not fall below that level.

*Tobacco.*

At present the duty on tobacco varies according to kind, being of course higher on cigars than on unmanufactured tobaccos. On the latter it is about 8s. 2d. per lb., on which the Empire enjoys a preference of one-sixth or, say, on raw tobacco of 1s. 4d.

His Majesty's Government would be prepared to adopt the course proposed in regard to sugar, i.e., to stabilize the existing preference for a term of years or alternatively they are prepared to increase the preference to one-quarter, i.e., to about 2s. on unmanufactured tobacco at present rates, the amount of the preference of course varying as the basis varies.

As a result of consultation with the oversea representatives concerned, it has been decided to adopt the second alternative, i.e., to raise the Preference from one-sixth to one-quarter.

*Wine.*

The proposals are:—

1. To double the existing preference of 2s. per gallon on the duty of 6s. per gallon on wines of a strength exceeding 30° and not exceeding 42°. The rate of duty on such wines coming from the Empire would thus become 2s. per gallon.
2. To increase from 30 per cent to 50 per cent the preference on the surtax of 12s. 6d. per gallon on sparkling wine.

*Raw Apples.*

It is proposed to levy a duty of 5s. per cwt. on raw apples of foreign origin and to admit raw apples from the Empire free of duty as at present.

*Canned Salmon and Canned Lobster, Cray Fish and Crabs.*

It is proposed that a duty of 10s. per cwt. shall be imposed on foreign canned salmon and canned lobster, cray fish and crabs, and that these goods shall be admitted free of duty from the Empire.



*Honey.*

It is proposed that a duty of 10s. per cwt. shall be imposed on foreign honey, and that honey of Empire origin shall continue to be admitted free of duty.

*Lime, Lemon and other Fruit Juices.*

The proposal of His Majesty's Government is that a duty at the rate of 6d. a gallon shall be imposed on Foreign lime and lemon juices and His Majesty's Government would consider a list of other fruit juices which the Dominions regarded as of interest to their trade. The same duty would fall on fruit syrups and would be exclusive of the duty on the sugar content of such syrups. Fruit juices from the Empire will continue to be admitted free of duty.

## (2) IMPERIAL PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

- “ (1) That this Imperial Economic Conference re-affirms the principle that in all Government contracts effective Preference be given to goods made and materials produced within the Empire except where undertakings entered into prior to this Conference preclude such a course or special circumstances render it undesirable or unnecessary.
- “ (2) That so far as practicable, efforts be made to ensure that the materials used in carrying out contracts be of Empire production.
- “ (3) That State, provincial and local government authorities should be encouraged to take note of the foregoing resolutions.”

## 4. FURTHER STEPS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MUTUAL TRADE

## (A)—IMPERIAL CO-OPERATION IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

It was decided to adopt the following Resolutions:—

(i) *Commercial Diplomatic and Consular Services.*

“ This Imperial Economic Conference takes note of the offer of His Majesty's Government to place the services of His Majesty's Commercial Diplomatic Officers in foreign countries at the disposal of the Governments of the Dominions and India and of the Colonies and Protectorates in the same way and to the same extent as the services of His Majesty's Trade Commissioners within the Empire are already at their disposal. It notes that His Majesty's Government propose that as regards countries outside of Europe the Governments should utilize direct the services of Commercial Diplomatic Officers or of senior Consular Officers where no Commercial Diplomatic Officers have been appointed, but that communications which it is proposed to address to Commercial Diplomatic Officers in European countries should be transmitted in the first instance to the Department of Overseas Trade.

“ The Conference, recognizing the importance of all possible steps being taken to strengthen the mutual co-operation of the several parts of the Empire in matters of commercial intelligence with a view to the development of Empire trade, welcomes the arrangements proposed by His Majesty's Government.



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

"It also welcomes the offer of the Governments of the Dominions which have appointed Trade Commissioners in countries overseas to make a similar arrangement for the utilization of those officers by Governments of other parts of the Empire.

"The Conference further recommends that, when two or more Governments of the Empire maintain commercial representatives in the same country, an endeavour should be made to arrange that the offices of these representatives should be in the same building or in close proximity, in order to facilitate all possible co-operation between such representatives in their work on behalf of Empire trade."

(ii) *Commercial Travellers' Samples.*

"This Imperial Economic Conference proposes that articles liable to duty imported into any part of the British Empire as samples or specimens by commercial travellers representing manufacturers or traders established in any other part of the British Empire, should be temporarily admitted free of duty, subject to such persons complying with the laws and regulations and also the Customs formalities established to assure the re-exportation or deposit in bond of the articles or the payment of the prescribed Customs duties if not re-exported or deposited within the prescribed period. But the foregoing privilege should not extend to articles which, owing to their quantity or value, cannot be considered as samples, or which, owing to their nature, could not be identified upon re-exportation.

"The marks, stamps, or seals placed upon such samples by the Customs authorities of any part of the Empire at the time of exportation and the officially attested list of such samples containing a full description thereof, including, in the case of goods liable to *ad valorem* duty, a statement of their value, should be accepted by the Customs officials of any other part of the Empire as establishing their character as samples and exempting them from inspection, except so far as may be necessary to establish that the samples produced are those enumerated in the list.

"The Customs authorities of that part of the Empire into which the samples are brought may, however, affix a supplementary mark to such samples or lists in special cases where they may think this precaution necessary.

"In cases where the regulations require the provisional payment of the duties or deposits for such samples on entry a receipt for such payment should be given and the duties or deposits should be reimbursed at any Custom-house at which the samples may be produced with a view to re-exportation."

(iii) *Trade Catalogues.*

"This Imperial Economic Conference proposes that, where freer admission of catalogues and price lists is not provided for, single copies of trade catalogues and price lists of firms having an established place of business within the Empire, sent by post, or with consignments of goods, from any other part of the British Empire, to business firms in any other part of the British Empire, should be admitted free of duty, provided that they are the trade catalogues or price lists of firms or persons having no established place of business in the territory to which they are sent."



## (B) STATISTICS

"This Imperial Economic Conference, recognizing the importance of rendering the trade statistics published by the Government of the United Kingdom as valuable as possible with reference to the development of inter-Imperial trade, recommends that the United Kingdom Board of Trade, after reviewing the statistics in question from this point of view, should draw up a detailed scheme and submit it to the Governments of the several parts of the Empire for their consideration."

## (C) IMPERIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(i) *Shipping.**(a) Imperial Shipping Committee.*

It was agreed to adopt the following Resolutions:—

## (1)

"That this Imperial Economic Conference desires to convey to Sir Halford Mackinder, as Chairman of the Imperial Shipping Committee, and to the members of that Committee, an expression of its appreciation of the very excellent work which they have done during the period of the Committee's existence, both in the interests of the commercial and producing communities, and of British citizens generally."

"That this Imperial Economic Conference is of opinion:—

"(1) That the work accomplished by the Imperial Shipping Committee is convincing proof of the wisdom of its establishment, and that it is of the highest importance to the Empire that this work should continue;

"(2) That it is, therefore, desirable to maintain the Committee on its present basis, deriving authority from, and responsible to, the Governments represented in the Imperial Conference."

*(b) Carriage of Goods by Sea.*

It was agreed that the following Resolution be adopted:—

"This Imperial Economic Conference having examined the Rules relating to Bills of Lading recommended by the International Conference on Maritime Law held at Brussels in October, 1922, and embodied in the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill now before the British Parliament, is of opinion that in all essential principles they are based upon the Canadian Water Carriage of Goods Act, 1910, and the Report of the Imperial Shipping Committee, 1921, and believing that there is a good prospect of international agreement in regard to bills of lading on this basis which would be of benefit to every part of the Empire, considers that these Rules can be recommended for adoption by the Governments and Parliaments of the Empire."

(ii) *Air Navigation.*

It was decided to adopt the following Resolutions:—

"(1) That the British Government should circulate to the Dominions and India a statement showing the present anticipated operational performances of rigid airships and in the future should circulate regularly up-to-date information of the progress of the Burney airship proposals in order that consideration of Empire participation in these or future airship proposals might be facilitated."



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

" (2) That the British Government should prepare a draft procedure designed on a reciprocal basis to secure more rapid and more extensive interchange of information in regard to civil aeronautics and should submit this for the consideration of the other Governments of the Empire with a view to general adoption.

" (3) That having regard to post-war developments, any British oversea countries which have no up-to-date experience of air photography and contemplate the use of air survey, would be well advised, whenever possible, to consult other Empire Governments having such experience before accepting estimates or schemes providing for its use."

(iii) *Cables and Wireless.*

It was agreed that the following Resolutions be adopted:—

" (a) That this Imperial Economic Conference affirms the importance of establishing as quickly as possible an efficient Imperial Service of Wireless Communication, and is of opinion that the several Governments of the Empire should take immediate action to remove any difficulties which are now delaying the accomplishment of this, while providing adequate safeguards against the subordination of public to private interests.

" (b) That representatives of the Dominions and India should be associated in the work of the Imperial Communications Committee when questions of interest to them are under consideration.

" (c) That in view of the fact that the Dominions interested in the Pacific cable have for a long time pressed for the provision of a State-owned connecting link across the Atlantic, all possible support should be given by the Governments of the Empire to the State-owned Atlantic cable route which has now been provided.

" (d) That in any concessions given in the British Empire to private enterprise in respect of cable or wireless services (including broadcasting stations), preference should be accorded to British Companies of any part of the Empire."

## (D)—RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS, INCLUDING ARBITRATION AWARDS

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

" This Imperial Economic Conference take note of the action already taken in many parts of the Empire to carry into effect the proposal contained in Resolution XXV of the Imperial Conference, 1911, with regard to mutual arrangements with a view to the enforcement in one part of the Empire of judgments and orders of the Courts of Justice in another part, including judgments or orders for the enforcement of commercial arbitration awards. While it is recognized that in certain Dominions these matters come within the scope of Provincial or State Governments whose freedom of action could not be bound by any decision of the Dominion or Central Government, the general view of the Imperial Economic Conference is that a universal arrangement throughout the Empire for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments, including arbitration awards, could not fail to be valuable and advantageous to trade and commerce, and is accordingly an object at which the different parts of the Empire should aim."



14 GEORGE V, A. 1924

## (E)—IMPERIAL CO-OPERATION WITH REFERENCE TO PATENTS DESIGNS AND TRADE MARKS

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

“This Imperial Economic Conference have given careful consideration to the Provisional Scheme recommended in the Report of the British Empire Patent Conference, 1922, and they are of opinion that, apart from one or two details which might receive further consideration by correspondence between the heads of the Patent Offices, the Provisional Scheme is a practicable one, and promises considerable advantages to British inventors throughout the Empire; but in view of the difficulties felt by the Dominion of Canada as regards the absence of any provision for reciprocal registration of Dominion patents, the Conference feel unable to make any recommendation so far as the Self-Governing Dominions and India are concerned.

“The Conference, however, unanimously agree that it is very desirable that the Provisional Scheme should be adopted by the Colonies and Protectorates, and that considerable benefits would thereby be derived by inventors throughout the Empire.”

## (F)—ECONOMIC DEFENCE

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

“In view of the vital importance to the British Empire of safeguarding its overseas carrying trade against all forms of discrimination by foreign countries, whether open or disguised, the representatives of the Governments of the Empire declare—

“ (1) That it is their established practice to make no discrimination between the flags of shipping using their ports, and that they have no intention of departing from this practice as regards countries which treat ocean-going shipping under the British flag on a footing of equality with their own national shipping.

“ (2) That in the event of danger arising in future to the overseas shipping of the Empire through an attempt by a foreign country to discriminate against the British flag, the Governments of the Empire will consult together as to the best means of meeting the situation.”

## (G)—CUSTOMS FORMALITIES

(i) *Valuation of Goods for Customs Duty Purposes.*

It was decided to adopt the following Resolutions:—

*Form A*

“A common form of invoice and certificate for use by exporters having been adopted by Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and Newfoundland, as well as by a number of Colonies, the Conference strongly recommends, in the general interests of inter-Imperial trade, that the early adoption of an identical form may be sympathetically considered by all the other Governments throughout the Empire which levy duty on a system similar to that in force in the above-mentioned parts of the Empire.

“The Conference understands that legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Imperial Customs Conference has already been



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

passed in Australia and New Zealand, and they venture to urge the passing of similar legislation in every case in which such may prove to be necessary."

*Form B*

"The Conference has had before it a form of invoice and certificate which had been prepared as suitable for use in those parts of the Empire which levy duty on the invoice value of goods imported from other parts of the Empire, and require for this purpose a certified statement made by the exporter of the goods.

"The Conference strongly recommends, in the interests of inter-Imperial trade, the early adoption by all parts of the Empire which levy on the system in question of the form annexed to this Resolution."\*

*Certificate in Regard to Postal Packages*

"The attention of the Conference has been drawn to the short form of certificate prepared by the Imperial Customs Conference, 1921, for use as establishing the origin of goods sent by parcel post from the United Kingdom.

"It understands that this form has already been adopted by a number of the Dominions and Colonies, and considers that in the interests of inter-Imperial trade the adoption of a similar form is desirable in the case of parcels arriving in one part of the Empire from another part.

"The Conference therefore strongly recommends that, in the case of parcels sent by parcel post, the contents of which are of small value and are not merchandise for sale, the following short form of certificate should be adopted at an early date by all parts of the Empire concerned, as providing satisfactory evidence of the origin of the goods in cases where the production of such evidence entitles the goods to entry at a lower rate of duty than would otherwise obtain:—

"The contents of this package are not merchandise for sale, and every article herein, to the extent of at least one-fourth of its present value, is bona fide the produce or manufacture of... ..

... ..  
(name of part of British Empire).

"Dated at... ..this... ..day  
of... ..19...

"... ..Sender."

(ii) *International Conference on Customs Formalities.*

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

"That the Conference should take note of the work accomplished by the recent League of Nations International Conference on Customs and other Similar Formalities (the 15th October to the 3rd November, 1923), and that the conclusions of that Conference should be recommended for favourable consideration to the various Empire Governments concerned."

---

\*See Appendix.



## (H)—EMPIRE CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

The Imperial Economic Conference adopted and endorsed the following Resolutions, submitted to them by the Committee on Inter-Imperial Exchanges:

"(1) That, arising as they do from the suspension of an effective gold standard, the difficulties of Inter-Imperial exchange will disappear when the currencies of Great Britain and the Dominions affected are again made convertible into gold.

"(2) That it is neither necessary nor desirable to adopt complicated plans for a new instrument of credit, such as Empire Currency Bills, which involve difficult and disputable constitutional and financial questions.

"(3) That where difficulties have arisen in regard to exchange between certain parts of the Empire and between such parts and the United Kingdom.

"(a) The position could be ameliorated if the note-issuing authorities were to accumulate sterling assets and to undertake to exchange their local currencies for sterling and *vice versa*.

"(b) This measure might be further developed and assisted by the creation of central banks and by mutual co-operation as recommended by the Genoa Conference.

"(c) In some cases the bank charges for buying and selling sterling appear to be unduly high and should be capable of reduction.

## (J)—CO-OPERATION FOR TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

It was decided to adopt the following Resolutions:—

*Resolution 1*

"This Imperial Economic Conference recommends the adoption of the first of the two schemes for the future of the Imperial Institute and the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau proposed in the Report\* of the Imperial Institute Committee of Enquiry, 1923, subject to the following modifications:—

"(i) That in order to ensure that the reconstituted Imperial Institute may in future undertake in its laboratories only preliminary investigations of raw materials for the purpose of ascertaining their possible commercial value, and to ensure that investigation or research of a more extensive kind may be referred to the appropriate authority, whether in this country or elsewhere in the Empire, there shall be formed a small Committee of the Governing Body, to be known as the 'Laboratory Committee,' consisting of the Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade (or his nominee), the Secretary of the Scientific and Industrial Research Department (or his nominee), and a Fellow of the Royal Society, being a representative of that Society on the Governing Body of the Imperial Institute, who will supervise the laboratory work of the Institute and report thereon from time to time to the Governing Body.

"(ii) That, with a view to ensuring that in future the reconstituted Institute may have expert assistance in regard to finance, *e.g.*, in establishment matters, a representative of His Majesty's

---

\*This Report will be published in due course.



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

Treasury be added to the new Governing Body and to the new Managing Committee proposed in paragraphs 100 and 101 of the Report of the Imperial Institute Committee of Enquiry."

*Resolution 2*

"This Imperial Economic Conference approves the estimate of the cost of maintaining the reconstituted Institute as set out in paragraph 5 of the memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies submitted to the Conference (I.E.C. (23)-18); and suggests that in order that the sum of £8,000, which is proposed as an annual contribution from the Dominions and India, may be obtained, the ministerial representatives of the Dominions and of India advise their respective legislatures to contribute the following annual amounts for a period of five years:—

	£
" Canada... ..	2,000
" Commonwealth of Australia... ..	2,000
" New Zealand*... ..	1,200
" Union of South Africa... ..	1,200
" India... ..	1,200
" Irish Free State... ..	200
" Newfoundland... ..	200 "

*Resolution 3*

"This Imperial Economic Conference take note of the memorandum on the co-ordination of research bearing upon industry and the suggestions for its development submitted by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and other Departments, and they are of opinion that all possible steps should be taken to encourage the exchange of scientific and technical information between the various parts of the Empire, and the co-operation of the official and other organizations engaged in research for the solution of problems of common interest."

## (K.)—IMMUNITY OF STATE ENTERPRISES

It was decided that the following Resolutions be adopted:—

## I.

"This Imperial Economic Conference, so far as it is competent for its members without prejudice to the rights of the States or Provinces of a self-governing Dominion, agrees with the recommendation of the Committee on the Liability of the Dominion and Foreign Governments, etc., to United Kingdom taxation expressed in the following terms, viz.:—

"Any Government within the Empire, so far as it engages in trade, shall be treated as liable to the taxation of any other country within the Empire, in which it may either own property in connection with trade, or make trade profits; the liability of the United Kingdom Government or any Dominion Government so far as engaged in trade shall be co-extensive with the liability of a private trading corporation in similar circumstances."

---

\*On the understanding that New Zealand is willing to raise this amount to \$1,500 provided that the Exhibition Galleries of the Institute are retained.



"It is agreed that each of the several Parliaments of Great Britain, the Dominions and India shall be invited to enact at the earliest opportunity a declaration that the general and particular provisions of its Acts or ordinances imposing taxation shall be deemed to apply to any commercial or industrial enterprise carried on by or on behalf of any other such Governments in the same manner in all respects as if it were carried on by or on behalf of a subject of the British Crown. It is not contemplated that such legislation should have retrospective effect for any year prior to 1924.

"This Conference further agrees that, as soon as possible after the passing of the aforesaid legislation, negotiations should be opened with the Governments of foreign countries, in accordance with the recommendations of the aforesaid Committee, "with a view to reciprocal agreement between those countries and the Empire to the following effect: if or when the Government of a foreign country carries on trade in the United Kingdom or in a Dominion, and if or when the Government of a country within the British Empire carries on trade in a foreign country, the trading Government shall not, in its character as such, be treated as entitled to any sovereign immunity from taxation either directly or through the claim of superiority to the jurisdiction of municipal Courts; nor shall a Government so trading be treated as entitled to any sovereign immunity from taxation in respect of property in the other country concerned which it may own or hold in a trading capacity or in connection with trade.

"It is understood that, as the Committee recommended, it would be a proviso to the whole agreement that it should be without prejudice to the national interests of a sovereign State in any emergency of war."

## II.

"The Conference further recommends that the draft convention on the immunity of State-owned ships adopted by the meeting of the International Maritime Committee held at Gothenburg in August last, and amended after consultation between the British Admiralty and Board of Trade, should be adopted throughout the Empire as the basis on which an international convention might be concluded. This amended draft is as follows:—

### *"Immunity of State-owned Ships.*

"(Amended Draft: October 26, 1923.)

"Article 1.—Vessels owned or operated by States for trading purposes, cargoes owned by them and cargo and passengers carried on such vessels and the States owning or operating such vessels shall be subjected in respect of claims relating to the operation of such vessels or to such cargoes to the same rules of legal liability (i.e., liability to be sued for payment) and to the same obligations as those applicable to private vessels, persons or cargo.

"Article 2.—Such liabilities shall be enforceable by the tribunals having jurisdiction over and by the procedure applicable to a privately-owned ship or cargo or the owner thereof.

"Article 3.—Ships of war, State Yachts, Surveying Vessels, Hospital Ships and other vessels owned or operated by States and employed on other than trading purposes shall continue to enjoy the respective privileges and immunities hitherto enjoyed by them by



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

the comity of nations. Liabilities against such ships in respect of collisions or salvage claims shall, however, be enforceable, but only by action before the competent tribunals of the State owning or operating such vessels; and no such vessel shall be liable to arrest. Similarly, State-owned cargo carried for non-commercial purposes in ships owned or operated by the State shall not be subject to seizure, but shall be liable to process of Law, but only in the Courts of the State owning such vessels.

"Article 4.—The provisions of this Convention will be applied in every contracting State in all cases where the claimant is a citizen of one of the contracting States, provided always that nothing in this Convention shall prevent any of the contracting States from settling by its own laws the rights allowed to its own citizens before its own Courts.

"Article 5.—This Convention shall not be binding on a belligerent State in respect of claims arising during the period of belligerency."

## 5. IMPERIAL POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORT AND EXPORT AND LIVESTOCK

After consideration of this question, the Imperial Economic Conference decided that steps should be taken to promote Inter-Imperial trade in pedigree stock throughout the Empire as a whole on reciprocal terms, subject always to satisfactory precautions being taken against the introduction of disease.

It was further agreed that a Conference should be arranged between representatives of His Majesty's Government and the Canadian Government to consider the question of the administrative interpretation of the terms of "The Importation of Animals Act, 1922."

## 6. IMPERIAL POLICY WITH REGARD TO FORESTRY

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

"That the Imperial Economic Conference accepts generally the Resolutions of the Empire Forestry Conference (Canada, 1923), and recommends them to the respective Governments of the Empire for their favourable consideration."\*

## 7. WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

It was decided to adopt the following Resolutions:—

### RESOLUTION I.

#### *Non-resident Workmen*

"That this Imperial Economic Conference, taking note of the existing restrictions in the Workmen's Compensation laws of certain parts of the British Empire on the payment of benefits to workmen and their dependants on the ground of non-residence in the State in which the accident happened, and having regard to the tendency of such restric-

---

\*It is understood that the Report of the Empire Forestry Conference (Canada, 1923) is being communicated separately to the Press.



tions to discourage movement within the Empire, is of opinion that no British subject who is permanently incapacitated, and no dependant of a British subject who has been killed, by accident due to his employment in any part of the Empire should be excluded from any benefit to which he would otherwise be entitled under the Workmen's Compensation law of that part of the Empire on the ground of his removal to or residence in another part of the Empire."

## RESOLUTION II.

### *Seamen*

"That this Imperial Economic Conference, having had its attention drawn to cases where British sailors injured by accident while serving on ships registered in some part of the Empire have had no claim to compensation owing to the law of that part of the Empire being restricted, in its application to seamen, to accidents occurring within territorial waters or other limited area, is of opinion that the Government of any such part of the Empire should ensure that the benefits of its compensation law will extend to all accidents to seamen serving on ships registered within such part of the Empire wherever the ship may be when the accident takes place. And furthermore the Conference invites the Government of any British Colony or Protectorate where there is a register of shipping, but where legislation giving compensation rights to seamen does not at present exist, to consider the adoption of such legislation."

## RESOLUTION III

### *Aliens*

"That this Imperial Economic Conference, taking note of the disabilities imposed under the Workmen's Compensation laws of certain foreign countries on British subjects residing in those countries and their dependants, invites each Government of the Empire, regard being had to its own particular conditions, to consider the possibility of adopting in workmen's compensation legislation, the principle of reciprocity, that is, that the benefits of such legislation should be accorded to subjects of foreign countries upon the condition that and to the extent to which such foreign countries accord reciprocal treatment to British subjects."

The Conference notes in adopting the foregoing Resolutions that, in certain of the Dominions, Workmen's Compensation falls wholly or partially within Provincial or State jurisdiction and is in those cases and to that extent outside the control of the Dominion Government.

## 8. IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

It was decided to adopt the following Resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this Imperial Economic Conference (Canada dissenting)—

"(1) It is desirable to establish an Imperial Economic Committee, comprising representatives of the Governments represented in the Imperial Conference, and responsible to those Governments.



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36a

"(2) The function of the Committee should be to consider and advise upon any matters of an economic or commercial character, not being matters appropriate to be dealt with by the Imperial Shipping Committee, which are referred to it by any of the constituent Governments, provided that no question which has any reference to another part of the Empire may be referred to the Committee without the consent of that other part of the Empire."

It was further decided that in the constitution of the proposed Imperial Economic Committee representation should be allotted to the various constituent Governments as follows:—

Great Britain.. . . .	4 members
Dominions.. . . .	2 members each
India.. . . .	2 members
Colonies and Protectorates.. . . .	2 members

## APPENDIX

The following is the form of invoice (Form B) referred to in the second Resolution under (G.) *Valuation of Goods for Customs Duty Purposes*, above:—

Country of Origin†	Marks and Numbers on Packages	Quantity and Description of Goods	Selling Price to Purchaser	
			@	Amount

† To be completed only where preferential rates of duty are claimed.

*Combined Certificate of Value and of Origin to be Written, Typed, or Printed on Invoices of Goods for Exportation to British Colonies, &c.*

I (1) . . . . . of (2) . . . . . of (3) . . . . .  
 manufacturer/supplier of the goods enumerated in this invoice amounting to . . . . ., hereby declare that I [(4) have the authority to make and sign this certificate on behalf of the aforesaid manufacturer/supplier, and that I] have the means of knowing and do hereby certify as follows:—

*Value*

1. That this invoice is in all respects correct, and contains a true and full statement of the price actually paid or to be paid for the said goods, and the actual quantity thereof.

2. That no arrangements or understanding affecting the purchase price of the said goods has been or will be made or entered into between the said exporter and

(1) Here insert manager, chief clerk, or as the case may be. •

(2) Here insert name of firm or company.

(3) Here insert name of city or country.

(4) These words should be omitted where the manufacturer or supplier himself signs the certificate.



purchaser, or by any one on behalf of either of them, either by way of discount, rebate, compensation, or in any manner whatever other than as fully shown on this invoice, or as follows (5) . . . . .

*Origin*

[In the case of goods exported to Colonies not granting preference to British goods, the following portion of the certificate dealing with origin should be struck out.]

(Delete whichever of 3 (a) or 3 (b) is not applicable. If 3 (a) is used delete 4 and 5. If 3 (b) is used insert required particulars in 4 and 5.)

3. (a.) That every article mentioned in the said invoice has been wholly produced or manufactured in (6) . . . . .	3. (b.) That every article mentioned in the said invoice has been either wholly or partially produced or manufactured in (6) . . . . .
--	--

4. As regards those articles only partially produced or manufactured in (6) . . . . .

(a.) That the final process or processes of manufacture have been performed in that part of the British dominions.

(b.) That the expenditure in material produced in (6) . . . . . and/or labour performed in (6) . . . . . calculated subject to qualifications hereunder, in each and every article is not less than one-fourth of the factory or works cost of such article in its finished state. (See note.†)

(†Note.—In the case of goods which have at some stage entered into the commerce of or undergone a process of manufacture in a foreign country only that labour and material which is expended on or added to the goods after their return to the United Kingdom shall be regarded as the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom in calculating the proportion of United Kingdom labour and material in the factory or works cost of the finished article.)

5. That in the calculation of such proportion of produce or labour of the (6) . . . . . none of the following items has been included or considered:—

“Manufacturer’s profit or remuneration of any trader, agent, broker, or other person dealing in the articles in their finished condition; royalties; cost of outside packages or any cost of packing the goods thereinto; any cost of conveying, insuring, or shipping the goods subsequent to their manufacture.”

Dated at . . . . . this . . . . . day  
of . . . . . 19 . . . . .  
Witness . . . . . Signature . . . . .

(5) Here insert particulars of any special arrangement.  
(6) Insert “United Kingdom” or name of other part of British dominions.